

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

CONFIDENTIAL

3 January 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Coordination of the Collection and Production
of Air Intelligence.

1. At the meeting of the National Security Council on 12 December 1947, action was deferred on proposed National Security Council Intelligence Directives No. 2 and 3 pending a determination by me as to whether dominant interest for the production and collection of air intelligence should be assigned either (a) to the Department of the Air Force, or (b) to the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy each in accordance with its respective needs.

2. I have carefully examined the two proposed directives, the plan for joint arrangement regarding air intelligence (JCS 1020/3) and several memoranda prepared by the Department of the Navy on this subject. It seems to me that the proposed Intelligence Directives properly proceed upon the assumption that it is desirable to assign dominant interest to one department, so that responsibility for collection and production of specific types of intelligence can be clearly fixed. In doing so, however, these directives clearly recognize that other departments may have an important interest in the intelligence collected and produced by a department to which this responsibility has been assigned. Moreover, I do not believe that the assignment of dominant interest to one department precludes the production of necessary intelligence by another department, because paragraph 1 c of the Directive No. 3 and paragraph 6 of Directive No. 2 clearly recognize that each intelligence agency has the ultimate responsibility for the preparation of such staff intelligence as its own department may require. For these reasons, it is my conclusion that dominant interest for the production and collection of air intelligence should be assigned to the Air Force.

3. I am forwarding a copy of this memorandum to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council with the suggestion that Intelligence Directives No. 2 and 3 be revised in accordance with the foregoing determination and submitted for final action to the National Security Council.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

James Forrestal

cc: Secretary of the Army
Exec. Secretary of the National Security Council

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